Illegal Nexus between NDTV and Doordarshan

2292. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has given huge amount to New Delhi Television illegally in the name of purchasing foreign clippings for the programme 'World This Week';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government to enquire the misutilisation of fund allocated to NDTV?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government has released foreign exchange of US $ 20.56 lakh to M/s NDTV during 1988—96 for production of the programme. The World This Week'. The matter regarding the concessions granted to the programme 'The World This Week' produced by M|s. NDTV and its allied aspects including the utilisation of foreign exchange has been examined in entirety by the Public Accounts Committee. The Committee in its Report submitted to the Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1997 have recommended that the whole matter should be entrusted to an appropriate investigative agency to be decided by the Cabinet Secretary for a thorough enquiry. Necessary action in this direction has been initiated.

BBC type Autonomy to Air and Doordarshan

2293. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to provide BBC type autonomy or All India Radio and Doordarshan with effect from 15th September, 1997;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down to exercise day to day administrative control on the functioning of the said Corporation;

(c) whether the employees would have an option to join the new Corporation; and

(d) if so, targeted date fixed to exercise such an option and what shall be the service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Government has notified commencement of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 providing for the autonomy of All India Radio and Doordarshan with effect from 15th September, 1997.

(b) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) would function independently under the provisions of the Prasad Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The procedure for exercising the option and service conditions of the employees shall be governed by sub-section 5 of Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

इलैक्ट्रानिक मीडिया संबंधी विज्ञापन नीति

2294. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

श्री शमशेर सिंह सुरजेवाला:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार इलैक्ट्रानिक मीडिया संबंधी अपनी नीति को और अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाने के लिए इसकी पुनरीक्षा करेगी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या कार्यक्रम के समय के अनुसार दूरदर्शन के दर्शकों की संख्या भिन्न-भिन्न होती है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार प्रत्येक कार्यक्रम को आवंटित समय के अनुसार दूरदर्शन के लिए विभिन्न विज्ञापन सुविधाएं मुहैया करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री एस० जयपाल रेड्डी) : (क) और (ख) विज्ञापन नीति की समीक्षा एक सतत प्रक्रिया है तथा नेटवर्क की पहुंच, बाजार शक्तियों जैसे विभिन्न कारकों और स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, बाल एवं महिला कल्याण आदि जैसे विभिन्न नोडल मंत्रालयों द्वारा, जारी निति निर्देशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए विज्ञापन नीति की समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है ।

(ग) जी, हां ।

(घ) और (ङ) दूरदर्शन के मौजूदा वाणिज्यिक दर कार्ड में प्रायोजकता/स्पाट बाइ दरों की व्यापक श्रेणी पहले से ही उपलब्ध है जो समय तथा प्रसारण चैनल के अनुसार भिन्न-भिन्न है ।

Ban on DTH-TV Services

2295. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to ban Direct to home (DTH) TV services and declare all such services illegal;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the hope of getting proper licences as per Government's open-sky policy, a number of entrepreneurs and households had acquired the necessary infrastructure including KU band equipment for DTH services, and if so, the reasons for delay or denial in issuing licences; and

(c) whether as reported in the press on 17th July, 1997, a last minute hitch occurred in the issuance of the notification, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Government have introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in Lok Sabha on 16.5.97, which, interalia, provides for regulation and licensing of Direct-to-Home television services. The bill is currently under consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. With a view to prevent pre-emption of the broadcasting law by foreign entities, as may be passed by the Parliament in this regard, Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunication have issued a notification dated 16.7.97 prohibiting establishment, maintenance, operation and possession of equipments capable of receiving signals above the frequency band of 4800 MHz.

(b) There is no such thing as yet, called Government's open sky policy. The proposed Broadcasting Bill, when implemented, will lay down the parameters for such a policy for the first time in our country. Government do not have information about entrepreneurs and households having acquired the necessary infrastructure. As per the notification dated 16-7-97 no one is permitted to procure KU band equipment for DTH services.

(c) No, Sir.